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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Military Information from Cottbus

EVALUATION: [REDACTED] 25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

[REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT: 30 August, to 15 September 1953

DATE OBTAINED: [REDACTED]

DATE PREPARED: 9 October 1953

REFERENCES

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]REMARKS 25X1 [REDACTED]

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1. Prior to 15 September 1953, the Hermann Loens Kaserne in Cottbus was occupied by an estimated 1,200 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets and by an estimated 1,200 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with tank insignia. Training was repeatedly performed on 4 or 5 T-34/85 tanks and, occasionally, on JS-3 tanks [REDACTED] at the training grounds south of the barracks installation and on the autobahn. Between 60 and 70 soldiers received infantry training in each case. Rifle firing with live ammunition involving up to 30 soldiers was executed in the southern part of the installation. [REDACTED]

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2. Until 15 September, the Alvensleben Kaserne was occupied by 80 to 100 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. They repaired trucks and gave the repaired truck a new coat of paint. [REDACTED]

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3. Prior to 15 September, the Dissechen Kaserne was occupied by a guard detail of about 130 to 150 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank and artillery insignia. No training activity was observed. Four tents occupied by 25 to 30 soldiers were west of the installation, south of the railroad line. [REDACTED]

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4. Prior to 15 September, the Sachsendorf Kaserne quartered an estimated 1,500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with artillery insignia and some with tank insignia. Up to 5 T-34/85 tanks were seen leaving the installation for the training grounds. Between 80 and 100 soldiers were repeatedly seen receiving infantry training. Between 25 and 30 soldiers performed rifle firing with live ammunition close to the water tower. Trucks [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] each occupied by 15 EM went to the ammunition depot near the railroad

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5. At 5:45 p.m. on 15 September, T-34/85 tanks [redacted] 1 T-34 chassis, 2 trucks and personnel were loaded onto an undetermined number of flatcars and 4 boxcars at the Cottbus railroad station. The train departed at about 6:30 p.m. The tank imprints came from the Sachsendorf Kaserne.

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6. From 10 to 15 August, about 200 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets from the Sachsenwerk Kaserne daily practiced river crossing at the Steintischmühle in Cottbus. They built foot bridges and a bridge, employing rafts and two pneumatic boats. On 18 August, entraining at the Cottbus railroad station was practiced [redacted] and, on 19 to 20 August, with 2 T-34 tanks. The tanks involved came from the Sachsendorf Kaserne in the morning and returned there in the evening.

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Comment. Since June, elements of the 9th Meoz Div were frequently reported at the post. Other elements were in Weisswasser for firing practices in mid-September. The bulk of the division was at the Forst Tauer training camp, however.

The tanks loaded on 15 September also belonged to the regiment which is thus confirmed in Cottbus until 29 June 1953.

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